



## DGS Employee of the Week:

### *Renaissance Man*

Ray Kaliush

Our DGS Employee of the Week is truly a renaissance man. Ray Kaliush is an affable project manager by day and a hard-charging soccer coach and thespian by night. This marks his 20<sup>th</sup> year with DGS as a key player on the Facilities Planning, Design and Construction team. For two decades of *Doing Great Service*, Ray is our Employee of the Week.

If you know Ray, then you know he's quick to strike up a conversation and has a knack for telling really great stories. It's hard to believe that when he moved here to the U.S. in the late 70s, he didn't speak any English. That didn't slow Ray down though. While working a string of restaurant jobs, he attended the University of Missouri where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and played NCAA Division II soccer.



After more than a decade working at engineering consulting firms in Baltimore, Ray joined DGS as an electrical review engineer, which was followed by a stint with the Office of Energy Conservation and Performance. His portfolio now includes managing projects built to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for the Department of Disabilities, construction projects for the Department of Natural Resources and special projects that involve electrical or mechanical engineering expertise. Ray says his job is rarely the same two days in row and that's what makes it so interesting.

His most memorable project was upgrading the lighting systems in the House and Senate Chambers to make them more energy efficient. Working on projects in the State House typically presents unique challenges because of the historic nature of the building. Some of the lighting in both chambers is located above the skylights designed by Tiffany & Company. To ensure the skylights weren't damaged, a special crane had to be designed to help with the installation process.

"Ray is so effective because he not only understands the technical aspects of his job, he easily connects with people and is able to negotiate solutions," said Lauren Buckler, Director, Energy and Engineering division. "Ray's extensive background and willingness to be flexible with his work assignments have made him a valuable part of the team."

Truly a renaissance man, most evenings Ray can be found pursuing his true passion – soccer. He coaches various club and high school teams, as well as runs his own summer soccer camp. Ray is also a thespian, acting in productions staged by the St. James Theater Company. Most recently he starred in Cats, but his favorite part was playing Jafar in Aladdin. When he's at home, Ray enjoys cooking and experimenting with new recipes. When dining out he likes to try restaurants featuring ethnic cuisine. You could say variety is the spice of Ray's life.

Ray's wife Susan, who frequently carools with him, also works for Maryland, at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. They have two children who are in college. Their daughter is a senior studying psychology at Dickenson College where she plays soccer, while their son is a freshman attending Towson University where he's enrolled in the theater program.

Congratulations to Ray Kaliush for 20 years of **Doing Great Service!**